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making of elementary text-books is coming to be more and more shared by true scholars, and rightly so. This circumstance has made us familiar with wide differences of method, hardly before suspected by many. When, for example, a great American philologist, some years ago, published a child's grammar of the English Language, what a tumult must have stirred the timid breasts of the unnumbered host of school-grammar-mongers! Has Prof. Meiklejohn, in the present instance, upheld the new tradition of scientific primers, or, with scissors and paste followed the rules of the commercial book-maker? He surely stands acquitted of the latter charge, though he does not take the highest rank in the class of those who represent the better doctrine. There is sufficient evidence in these pages to show that the author is so well equipped in some of the departments of his wide subject as to enable him to be effective in omission: he epitomizes and leaves the impress of reserved force. But where results are employed of those who work according to methods in which he has been less thoroughly trained, we have at least a display of genuine and intelligent interest that contributes strongly to a palliation of many offences against accuracy. This restriction holds particularly for 'historical' notes and observations introduced throughout the First Part, which is a good descriptive grammar in outline; it also holds for certain philological appendices attached to the grammar; but the teacher that can make right use of these matters will also be qualified to correct and modify their form.

There is however one chapter in which the author so sadly breaks in equality of performance, that we may also now take leave of our indulgence in general descriptives. We refer to the chapter on Versification. When shall we learn to be simple and rational in our theories of Metre! Our author illustrates a verse made up of four iambs thus:

'Twere long', | and need' | less, here' | to ell'
How to my hand these papers fell.

One may justify a design in at first omitting the scansion of the second line, until one turns to the next page to be startled by this observation: "But we seldom see a trochee introduced into an iambic line; or an iambus into a

trochaic." *Amphibrachic* metre is set forth without the least misgiving. It were worth knowing whether Prof. Bain would even to-day continue, with our author, to scan,—

There came' to | the shore' a | poor ex'ile | of E'rin |.

A few pages further on there is an approach to the truth when we are told that "there are very few examples in English of this kind of verse;" the simple truth being that there are *none*. Remarks on the relative frequency of the different types of metre are numerous, and in some instances quite odd. For example, under the head of iambic tetrameter: "There is a good deal of this verse in English; and most of it is by Scott." Again: "There is very little anapæstic verse in English;" of the dactylic tetrameter there is in English poetry also "very little;" *amen* and *farewell* are represented to be about the only spondaic words in the language. Pope is accused of managing the cæsure worst—"worst, because it is almost always in the same place" and lines from the 'Rape of the Lock' are cited in evidence. But a rough estimate shows that in this poem the occurrence of a varied diæresis in relation to that of the prevailing type is about as one to two. The monotony of Pope's verse is due to a characteristic structure of the line to which the medial pauses have no definite relation. The treatment of the stanza is altogether lacking in carefulness. In the quatrain, for example, the second line is said *always* to rhyme with the fourth. Is not *In Memoriam* in quatrains? We can hardly pardon such misleading incompleteness as the following: "A stanza of eight lines is called an *octave* or *ottava rima*;" and again, "A stanza of nine lines is called the *Spenserian stanza*." The closing paragraph is on the Sonnet and proves Prof. Meiklejohn to have been at least once "mind-less of its just honours."

JAMES W. BRIGHT.

THE NEW DIALECT JOURNAL.

Revue des Patois, recueil trimestriel consacré à l'étude des patois et anciens dialectes romans de la France et des régions limitrophes. Publié par L. CLÉDAT. Paris, Vieweg, 67 rue de Richelieu. Price, 17 frs. per year. Nos. 1 and 2.

This publication is the beginning of the enterprise announced in *M. L. NOTES*, Vol. II., p. 70, and the two numbers lying before me give promise of excellent work. We have a multitude of journals devoted to the interests of Romance literature and linguistics, but, for those specially inclined to dialect investigations, a pressing need has long been felt for some organ that should more particularly represent this department of Romance study. It is true that the pages of several other journals such as the *Zeitschrift für romanische Philologie*, the *Romania*, etc., etc., are open to articles of dialect research, but in this line of work as nowhere else, perhaps, in the whole field, is room wanted to spread out the materials in detail before the reader; and hence a publication devoted exclusively to the reproduction of all forms and phases of patois life is a desideratum which we welcome with more than ordinary feeling. The editor has probably done well, too, in limiting, for the beginning, the domain covered by his Review, to the French and its genetically allied idioms, though the time will soon come, I hope, when, through the more extended and critical development of dialect investigation, a journal for Romance patois in general, will become a necessity. Meanwhile, let us give to the newcomer a cordial welcome and wish it all possible good fortune.

In the "Avertissement" of the first number, the editor makes a few remarks on dialect work, particularly in France, then proposes a system of notation that is inadequate to meet the wants of sound representation such as come up in the multifarious shadings of French patois phonetics. It is understood, of course, that these directions are intended, in great measure, for the general public and, as such, are kept as free from detail as possible; hence it happens, perhaps, that apparent inconsistencies have crept into them which otherwise might have been avoided. For example, after having stated (p. 2) the wholesome doctrine: "Il importe d'écrire exactement les mots tels qu'ils se prononcent. Il ne faut pas, sous prétexte de se rapprocher de l'orthographe française, écrire des lettres qui ne se prononcent pas;" the writer tells us, (p. 3) "il n'y a pas d'inconvénient à écrire *eu* (*ceux*) et *ou* (*fou*)

comme en français." Here the common observer, leaving out of account the delicate quantitative differences in sound represented by the digraph *eu* (*peur, neuf*), might, with great advantage to the reader, and without embarrassment to himself, indicate for us the more striking variations of open and closed vowel quality (*peur, feu*), since it so often happens in dialect that this is essentially different from what we find in French proper.—P. 3. "Le son que l'on entend dans les mots français '*tôt* et '*chapeau*' doit être écrit par *ô*, jamais par *eau* ni par *au*." Here, again, the student of dialect phonetics would be deeply interested to know whether the native patois speaker uses the closed (*rose*), or the open (*robe*), sound of *o*, and in the examination of certain poetic compositions, his uncertainty with reference to this fact would hinder him from coming to just conclusions about the exact constitution of the verse. The Lorraine guttural is represented by *kh*, "la graphie *ch* restant réservée au son chuintant que l'on entend dans le français '*chant, cheval*, etc.'" Why not have the simple graphic sign *ʃ*, now so commonly used to represent this dental voiceless sibilant, especially since *z* is to supplant *s* in such words as *rose*, etc.? As nothing is said about the corresponding voiced sibilant *ʒ*, it is to be presumed that the monstrous French *j* (*g*) must be used as its legitimate representative; in fact, the last sentence of the "Avertissement" (p. 4) justifies this conclusion and appears more or less contradictory to the first statement quoted: "Pour les sons que nous n'avons pas prévus, nous recommandons *** de les écrire avec les lettres françaises qui s'en rapprochent le plus, en les soulignant et en les expliquant." While, then, these instructions are evidently intended for the general collector, and for him may be of use in a cursory way, yet for the special dialect investigator, they are wholly inadequate, and I fear that material collected in this manner may not always be of accurate scientific value on the phonetic side. In truth, the "réponses contradictoires" mentioned by the author (No. II. p. 99), as coming from two of his correspondents, with reference to writing *le* or *lo*, and the supplementary note in the "Chronique" (II. p. 159) designed to avoid the

confusion between *au* and *aw*, *ai* and *ay*, show already at the outset that a more exact notation is necessary. On the other hand, the principal morphological products may thus be safely set down, as they have little to do, comparatively speaking, with the literary importance of the popular texts collected.

In No. 1, the first contribution is a mere announcement by the editor of his intention to treat "Les patois de la région lyonnaise," which cannot be done in detail till he has made a more extensive collection of texts. With this object in view, he has communicated, through the rector of the Academy of Lyons with the rectors of the Academies of Besançon, Chambéry, Clermont and Nancy. By them, the project was laid before the teachers of each Department and the names of those willing to second the scheme are given according to Arrondissement. This preliminary step in the work was admirably practical and has already brought out enough material for the writer to begin his treatise in the second number (pp. 81-106), the introductory chapter being confined to the definite article. The series of dialects covered by this study, are the legitimate Franco-Provençal patois and those of certain contiguous Departments: Ain, Hautes-Alpes, Ardèche, Doubs, Drôme, Isère, Jura, Loire, Haute-Loire, Rhône, Haute-Saône, Saône-et-Loire, Savoie, Haute-Savoie, Vosges and the territory about Belfort.

The first set of questions sent out concern matters of flexion especially and cover the following subjects:—1. The forms of the definite article;—2. Those of the indefinite article;—3. Possible doublets in two categories of feminine nouns ending in *a* in Latin;—4. Characteristics of the feminine and of the plural;—5. Forms of the personal pronoun.—The writer prefaces his investigation by noticing a peculiar trait of the reduced singular article *l* (common to the whole of France), where mouillation has swallowed up the characteristic form in connection with the word *iô* (*eau*); for example, in the Canton of Tournus (Saône-et-Loire) "la couleur de l'eau=*la couleur de iô*". Under the influence of the initial *yod* of *iô*, the article proper has disappeared, as in the popular *qu'est-ce qu'i ya* for "qu'est-ce qu'il

y a." For certain parts of the speech-territory examined, *liaison* of a two-fold nature exists for the plural article: *s=z* before the palatal vowels *é, i, ü, ô*, and *j* (*ž*) before the guttural vowels *a, o, u, on*.

The interesting and important inquiry is now entered upon to determine the geographical distribution of the various forms of the article within the district under consideration, and the results reached are gratifying. Six morphological types are found here: *lê* (*lè*), *el*, *lu*, *lou*, *le*, *lo* and of these *lou* and *le* are the only ones that cover extended territories. *Lê*, *lè*, *el* are found in the East (Lorraine); *lu* here is very rare, occurring only in Provençal speech (Dordogne) and about Valence (Drôme): *lo* appears here and there throughout the territory that is studied. *Lou* and *le* divide the ground between them: starting on the extreme east and following a curved line, to the north-west, we have *lou* in the Departments of Hautes-Alpes, Drôme, Ardèche, Haute-Loire. In the last-named Department, the two lines meet; the north uses *le*, the south, *lou*. Turning again to the east we strike another compact domain of *lou*, covering Franche-Comté and part of Bresse: the Departments of Haute-Saône, Doubs and Ain. For the *le*-district, we begin again to the north, north-east of the northern division of the *lou*-territory, that is, with the Department of Vosges and, following a curved line to the south-west, take in a strip of west Haute-Saône, the north-west corner of Jura, Saône-et-Loire, Loire and, finally, the northern part of Haute-Loire, where the *lou*-line bearing to the north-west meets the *le*-line. On the east of the *lou*-territory, wedged in between its northern and southern divisions, a limited field (Savoie and Haute-Savoie) of *lou*-forms is to be noted, which belongs, properly speaking, to the Swiss dialect territory. The small Department of Rhône is the mixing ground of the two patois forms; *lou* prevails in Isère, but examples of *le* are frequent in the north-west.

From this short survey of the results obtained by Professor Clédât in his initial patois study, we cannot fail to recognize the importance of his labor for French grammar, and we shall look forward with great interest to the like investigations that are to follow.

His next paper will treat of the contract forms of the masculine article. The detailed examination of dialect morphological phenomena, such as is here carried out, is destined to throw light on the early constitution and growth of proper French forms, and it is thus a subject of congratulation that this comparatively new field has been entered upon by the young Lyons professor with so much thoroughness and vigor.

The second article which occupies nearly the whole of No. 1. of the new Review is by M. E. Philipon, and is devoted to a study of "Le dialecte bressan aux XIII^e et XIV^e Siècles," (pp. 11-57). This is a fitting counterpart to the editor's paper on the article, since it takes a well defined region of the Franco-Provençal territory and gives us a grammar-summary, texts and vocabulary of the older stage of this special variety of speech. The grammar proper is preceded by a dozen pages covering the chief phonetic peculiarities of the old language of Bresse. As archivist, the writer has been able to collect the few extant charters and "registres terriers" of the early patois of this district, and it is on them that his study is based. Twenty-seven pages of these texts are given here, followed by a vocabulary, so that the investigator has adequate material at hand to control the opinions expressed by the author, if he wishes to do so.

For the second number of the Review, M. Puitspelu, author of the 'Dictionnaire étymologique du patois lyonnais,' gives us "Un conte en patois lyonnais du commencement du siècle." Toward 1806, the Bureau of Statistics of the French Empire determined to collect translations of 'L'Enfant prodigue' in the various patois of France. Cochard was at this time Conseiller de préfecture of the Department of the Rhône, and was commissioned to collect the translations for his Department. Among these are found certain popular "Contes," in dialect, that have not been published and that are often much more interesting and characteristic than the Parable itself.¹ It is one

¹ Similar materials are found in the dialect Parable collections made in northern France. We shall publish soon one of these patois pieces, consisting of a few lines, which was copied in the Archives at Rouen and which is entitled: "Compliment adressé à S. A. R. Madame la duchesse de Chartres par les p^rcheurs du Faubourg du Pollet-Jes-Dieppe." It is in the Polletais dialect of that time and of interest from this point of view.

of these, "Dialogo de doux homos de la paroichi de ** qu'eriant ou cabaret," that the writer presents here, accompanied by a face-to-face Modern French translation and frequent explanatory foot-notes.

A series of short dialect texts, mostly accompanied by French translations, follow next, by Joret, Brunot, Fertiault and others. An interesting and most useful list of dialect works, arranged according to Departments, closes both Nos. of the journal.

A. MARSHALL ELLIOTT.

BRIEF MENTION.

The attention of subscribers is called to the proposed increase in the price of MODERN LANGUAGE NOTES, as indicated at the head of page 2 of our advertising sheets. This change will be referred to more at length in our next issue.

The fifth annual Convention of the Modern Language Association of America will be held at the University of Pennsylvania (Philada.) on December 29 and 30. Papers will be read by Professors Sheldon (Harvard), H. S. White (Cornell), Karsten (Indiana Univ.), Collitz (Bryn Mawr), Smyth (Philada.), Tolman (Ripon College), Shepherd and Primer (College of Charleston), Fortier (Tulane), Wood and Elliott (Johns Hopkins), Lang (Swain Free School), Kroeh (Stevens' Inst.). A circular will be issued in a few days, giving particulars as to papers, order of exercises, social entertainments, etc.

A rich and interesting vein of folk-lore tales for English readers has been drawn upon by Mrs. M. Carey, in her 'Fairy Legends of the French Provinces,' just issued by Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., N. Y. (12mo, pp. 300, \$1.25). The book consists of translations of thirty-four fairy tales, selected in part from the French folk-lore journal, *Méhusine*, and in part from Paul Sébillot's 'Contes des Provinces de la France' (Paris, 1884). Most of these tales present the charm and the authenticity of having been taken directly from the lips of the people by such distinguished specialists as Emmanuel Cosquin, J. A. Cuoq, F. M. Luzel,